STATEMENT OF DR. AGUSTIN GUITART

I am presently employed as a Professor of Physics at Xavier University. I reside in New Orleans at 3694 Louisiana Avenue Parkway.

Mr. Frank Klein, representing the New Orleans District Attorney's Office, visited me on this date and asked me a number of questions about several Cubans and their whereabouts. I have been previously visited by the FBI on numerous occasions but its inquiry was largely confined to the question, which it raised, of whether my neice, Sylvia Odio, was sound of mind.

I was asked if I know Carlos Quiroga. I do not know this man personally and have never met him. However, after the assassination Sylvia, my niece, visited me here in New Orleans and in talking about the events which occurred in Dallas I recall that she mentioned this name but I do not remember in what connection she mentioned it. I do not recall whether she said this was one of the men who visited her or not. She was at that time active with the organization known as JURE. The FBI gave me the impression and asked me many questions about Sylvia's possible insanity. I want to say that I do not feel that she is insane and that she is telling the truth about what happened in Dallas. Sylvia is now in Puerto Rico with her children, and her sister, who was also living in Dallas, is now in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Klein then asked me whether I recognized the name Sergi Arcacha-Smith. At first I did not recognize this name but after Mr. Klein

printed the name out for me and I looked at it I told him that this name is spelled wrong and should be spelled A-R-C-A-C-H-A. I remember that when I first arrived here from Cuba in 1962 I was told about a man named "Arcacha". He was described to me as a bandit. In other words, he would take money from people for the purpose of fighting Castro and then keep the money. I never met the man and he is gone from here now and I don't know where he is. A man who does know him however, is a man who lives here by the name of Arturo Finlay. He is a former employee of the Cuban Consulate here before Castro and is now in the insurance business. Also, Frank Bartes, who also lives in New Orleans and came here from Cuba in 1960 and is now in the real estate business, knows him and he also knows a whole lot about local Cubans and their activities. Mr. Klein mentioned the name Louis Ravel whom I know very well and I believe that he probably also knows Arcacha.

Mr. Klein then asked me about George Rodriguez Alvareda. I do not recognize this name, however, I did know an Alvareda in Cuba but it wasn't Rodriguez Alvareda.

Mr. Klein then asked me about Antonio Alentado and showed me where my niece had mentioned him in her testimony. I don't know this man but I doubt that he is a Cuban. He is probably a Mexican because in all my experience in Cuba and with the Cubans I know here I have never come across this name.

Mr. Klein then asked me whether the names of Torres or Santana were familiar to me as being Cubans who had lived in New Orleans. I told him that I did not recognize these names; however, they are very common names.

Mr. Klein then showed me three pictures. In two of the pictures I recognized Lee Harvey Oswald because I had seen him when he was in Court in New Orleans. I was there with Dr. Bringuier when they went to Court because of the trouble Dr. Bringuier had with Oswald. I remember Oswald giving a statement to the newspapers at this time. I did not recognize any of the other people in the picture with the exception of one man who in one picture has an arrow over his head and is standing next to Oswald, and in the other picture has the number "3" over his head. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark tie. I do not know this man's name and I cannot recall where or how he is familiar to me but I feel that I may have seen him before. However, he appears to me not to be white. I did not recognize anyone in the third picture that Mr. Klein showed me.

I taught at the University of Havana for 27 years and held high positions in the Department of Education and in the Department of Public Works. All of my children are now with me in the United States. Mr. Klein asked me about Sylvia's mother and father.

Sylvia's mother and father are still in prison in Cuba but Sylvia's mother's six-year sentence is supposed to expire this year and we are hoping she will be released. Her father received a seven-year sentence which should expire next year. Her father had a very large trucking business in Cuba and Castro seized his business which was worth possibly four to five million dollars.

This is all I recall about the people I was asked about and I would like to state that I wish to help the District Attorhey's office in any way that I can.

Agustin Guitart

January , 1967